

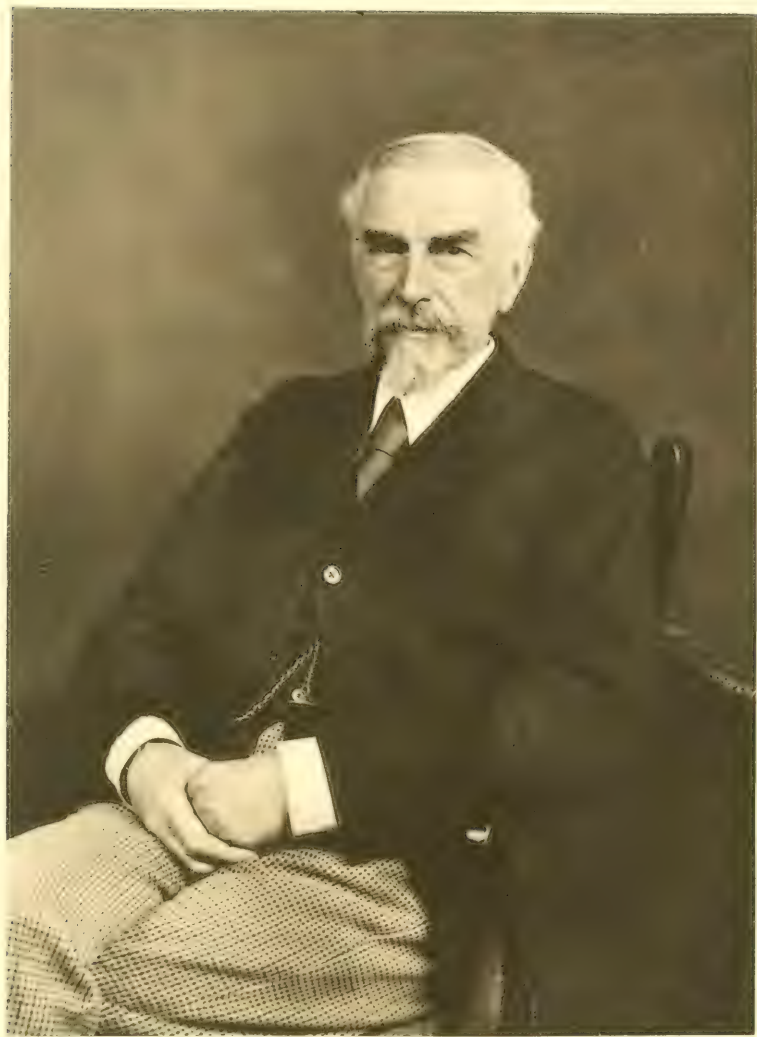
XXXIV.—*Obituary.*

PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, THOMAS AYRES, and
Dr. J. W. B. GUNNING.

PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER. (Plate XIII.)

By the death of Philip Lutley Selater, D.Sc., F.R.S., the world of science has sustained a severe loss, which our members, from his connexion with them, must feel even more acutely than his innumerable friends both at home and abroad. Not only was he of world-wide reputation for a long life's work, but the various posts which he held at different periods entitled him to be considered of late the head of that branch of learning to which he was specially devoted, as well as a great power in zoology generally. He always had the welfare of ornithology at heart, and was not only ready but anxious to further any project for its advancement, while his kindness and consideration to all beginners who applied to him were equally characteristic. The names of Bowdler Sharpe, Garrod, and W. A. Forbes will at once occur to us in this connexion, but these are a mere drop in the ocean compared to the long list of all who have owed their position or their reputation to his support, and those of them who are still alive will have heard with the keenest regret of his removal from our midst. It may, perhaps, be permitted to the present writer here to strike a personal note by expressing his own feeling of gratitude for all Dr. Selater's kindness towards him, both in early life and while joint-editor with him of 'The Ibis,' and to add his tribute to the memory of a great ornithologist and a warm and consistent friend. As an original member of our Union, as editor of our Journal, and as chairman of the British Ornithologists' Club Dr. Selater was connected with all of us by the closest of ties, and thus this notice must be considered as an expression of the greatest regret and at the same time a token of the greatest esteem put forward in the name of every member of the B.O.U.

The subject of our notice was born, on the 4th of November



P. L. Selater

1829, at Tangier Park, in Hampshire, then the residence of his father, Mr. William Lutley Selater, J.P. ; but his boyhood was passed at Hoddington House, another estate in the same county, also belonging to his father, to which the family moved in the month of September 1833.

In beautiful Hampshire, not far from the old home of Gilbert White, Selater acquired, at an early age, a love for outdoor life and exercise and a special taste for the study of birds. At the age of ten he was sent to a well-known school at Twyford, near Winchester ; in 1842 he left for Winchester College, and in 1845 was elected Scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Being at that time under sixteen years of age, he was not called into residence until Easter, 1846. At the University his attention was given principally to mathematics, though his spare time was occupied by the study of birds, and of the excellent series of natural-history books then in the Radcliffe Library.

Hugh E. Strickland, the well-known ornithologist, who was at that time resident in Oxford as Reader in Geology, became interested in young Selater, and it was at his house that he met John Gould, shortly after his return from his great journey to Australia. From Strickland he received his first instruction in scientific ornithology. He began his collection of bird-skins at Oxford, making British skins for himself, and buying foreign specimens whenever he had the opportunity.

In December 1849, he took the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, obtaining a first class in the mathematical school and a "pass" in classics. At that time these were the only two recognised subjects for study in the University, no sort of encouragement being given to Natural Science. After taking his degree Selater remained in Oxford for two years, devoting his time principally to Natural History. He also gave much attention to modern languages, studying them with masters at home and always visiting the Continent in vacation-time, and thus soon made himself familiar with French, German, and Italian.

At this period of his life he was often in Paris, studying

at the National Museum in the Jardin des Plantes. Here he made the acquaintance of the great ornithologist, Prince Charles Bonaparte, at whose house, in the Rue de Lille, he was a frequent visitor. In 1851 he entered as a student at Lincoln's Inn, while the winter of 1852-53 was devoted to travel in Italy and Sicily.

In December 1855, Selater was admitted Fellow of his college, and, having in the previous June been called to the Bar, went on the Western Circuit for several years.

In 1856 he made his first journey across the Atlantic, in company with the Rev. George Hext, a fellow Oxonian. Leaving England in July, they went by New York up the Hudson to Saratoga, and there attended the Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. After that they went to Niagara, and thence through the Great Lakes to Superior City, at the extreme end of Lake Superior. Here they engaged two Canadian "voyageurs," and travelled on foot through the backwoods to the upper waters of the St. Croix River. This they descended in a birch-bark canoe to the Mississippi. Selater subsequently published an account of this journey in the third volume of 'Illustrated Travels.' Returning by steamboat and railway to Philadelphia, he spent a month studying the splendid collection of birds belonging to the Academy of Natural Sciences in that city, where he formed the acquaintance of John Cassin, Joseph Leidy, John Le Conte, and other then well-known members of that Society. He returned to England shortly before Christmas 1856. For some years after this he lived in London, practising at the Bar, but always working steadily at natural history. He was a constant attendant at the meetings of the Zoological Society of London, of which he was elected a Fellow in 1850, and in 1857 became a Member of the Council. In 1858 he took a prominent share in founding 'The Ibis,' and became its first Editor.

In January 1859, Selater made a short excursion to Tunis and Eastern Algeria, in company with his friend E. C. Taylor. They visited the breeding-places of the Vultures

and Kites in the interior, and gathered many bird-skins, returning to London at the end of March.

At this time Mr. D. W. Mitchell, Secretary of the Zoological Society, was about to vacate his post, in order to take charge of the newly instituted Jardin d'Acclimatation in Paris. As his successor Selater was selected by Owen and Yarrell, then influential members of the Council, and was unanimously elected at the Anniversary Meeting on April 30th, 1859.

He found it necessary for several years to devote himself entirely to the reorganization of the affairs of the Society. The 'Proceedings' and 'Transactions' were at that time several years in arrear—they were brought up to date; the 'Garden Guide,' which was out of print, was re-written; the large staff at the Gardens was re-arranged and divided into departments under the Superintendent, and various other reforms were introduced.

In 1874, when his brother (then the Right Hon. George Selater-Booth, M.P., and afterwards Lord Basing) accepted office in Mr. Disraeli's administration as President of the Local Government Board, Selater became his private secretary, a position which he occupied for two years. But when subsequently offered a permanent place in the Civil Service he declined it, because he could not make up his mind to give up his dearly loved work in natural history. His most engrossing duties were in connexion with the Zoological Society of London, to which, as principal executive Officer, he, of course, devoted most of his time. It is conceded by all that its affairs prospered well under his direction. The number of Fellows of the Society, about 1700 in 1859, increased to over 3000. The income of the Society, which in 1858 was a little over £14,000, rose to £30,000. Besides this, nearly all of the principal buildings in the Society's Gardens were rebuilt and fitted up with every sort of modern convenience for animals. The old Office-building (No. 11 Hanover Square) was sold, and was replaced by a much larger and more convenient house (No. 3 Hanover Square) in the same vicinity. A debt of

£12,000 was paid off, and the house became the freehold property of the Society without any sort of encumbrance. The first floor of the Society's house was devoted to the accommodation of a large and very valuable zoological library, under the care of a Librarian and his assistant, and was the constant resort of the working zoologists of the metropolis. This library had been almost entirely accumulated since 1859. Selater was also instrumental in the adoption of that important work 'The Zoological Record,' by the Society.

Selater, as already mentioned, was selected by the British Ornithologists' Union as the first editor of its journal, 'The Ibis,' in 1859. He finished the first series in 1864. Professor Newton took his place as editor of the second series, and Osbert Salvin as editor of the third. In 1877 Selater was associated with Salvin as editor of the fourth series, and in 1883 commenced the editorship of the fifth series with Howard Saunders as co-editor. When the fifth series was completed, in 1888, he became sole editor of the sixth, which he finished in 1894. In 1895, having again obtained the assistance of Howard Saunders, he commenced work on the seventh series, and finished it in 1900. Taking A. H. Evans as co-editor he completed the eighth series in 1906, and the ninth series in 1912.

When the British Ornithologists' Club was established in 1892, he joined heartily in the movement inaugurated by Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, and was elected Chairman. He was most regular in his attendance at the monthly meetings, occupying the chair and delivering an inaugural address at the commencement of each session.

With the British Association for the Advancement of Science Selater had a long connexion, having become a member in 1847, at the second Oxford meeting, and having attended its meetings with few exceptions for many years. For several years he was Secretary of Section D, and at the Bristol meeting in 1875 he was President of that Section and delivered an address "On the present state of our Knowledge of Geographical Zoology." In 1876 he was

elected one of the two General Secretaries of the Association, together with Sir Douglas Galton, and served in that capacity for five years, thereby becoming an *ex officio* member of the Council, at the meetings of which he continued to be a constant attendant.

In 1886 Selater began the transfer of his private collection of American bird-skins to the British Museum. This collection contained 8824 specimens, representing 3158 species, belonging to the Orders Passeres, Picarie, and Psittaci. It may be remarked that when he began his collection at Oxford in 1847 he intended to collect birds of every kind and from all parts of the world, but after a few years he resolved to confine his attention particularly to the Ornithology of South and Central America, and to collect specimens only in the Orders above mentioned, which were at that time generally less known than the others and of which the specimens are of a more manageable size for the private collector.

At the time of the beginning of this transfer, which was only completed in 1890, Selater agreed to prepare some of the volumes of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' relating to the groups to which he had paid special attention. In accordance with this arrangement, by the expenditure of fully two years of his leisure time on each volume, he prepared the eleventh volume in 1886, the fourteenth in 1888, the fifteenth in 1890, and half of the nineteenth in 1891.

When the 'Challenger' Expedition started to go round the world in 1873, at the request of his friend, the late Sir Wyville Thomson, he agreed to work out all the birds. Soon after the return of the expedition in 1877 the specimens collected were placed in his hands, and with the assistance of his ornithological friends were speedily reported upon in a series of papers contributed to the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings.' The whole of these papers were reprinted with additions and illustrations, and now form part of the second volume of the "Zoology" of the 'Challenger' Expedition.

Geography, being very closely connected with zoology,

always commanded Selater's hearty interest. He became a life-member of the Royal Geographical Society in 1880, and attended its meetings very regularly. He also served two years on the Council, and was a member of the Geographical Club. He assisted in promoting many researches in foreign parts, chiefly, however, with a view to obtaining collections in natural history from strange places. Among these may be especially mentioned Sir H. H. Johnston's expedition to Kilima-njaro in 1884 and Professor Bayley Balfour's visit to Socotra in 1880. He also took a leading part in sending out naturalists to Kerguelen Land and Rodriguez with the Transit-of-Venus Expeditions of 1874-75, and in many other similar efforts to explore little-known parts of the earth's surface.

In fact his work on Geographical Distribution and Classification may be considered his greatest claim to the gratitude of posterity. Of the former subject he set forth his views soon after 1858, when he suggested for the acceptance of ornithologists his six well-known geographical regions, while later he wrote, jointly with his son William, on the geographical distribution of Mammals. With regard to the latter subject, he propounded a Classification of the Class Aves in 'The Ibis' for 1880.

In 1884 he took advantage of the opportunity of the visit of the British Association to Montreal to cross the Atlantic a second time, and after the meeting to again visit the United States. He was not in good health at that period, and did little, if anything, in the way of zoology. But he had the pleasure of seeing several of his former friends, especially Messrs. Lawrence and Baird, and of making the personal acquaintance of Mr. Ridgway, Mr. Allen, Mr. Brewster, Dr. Merriam, and many other naturalists.

One of his closest friends was the late Professor Huxley, long a member of the Council of the Zoological Society, where he was one of Selater's most constant supporters. Professor Huxley, it may be said, was the chief advocate of the project of employing an anatomist at the Society's

Gardens, and invented the title "Prosector" for the holder of the new office. A. H. Garrod, who became Prosector in 1871, and W. A. Forbes, who succeeded him in 1879—both very talented and promising young naturalists,—were dear friends of Selater, and the unfortunate death of Forbes during an excursion to the Niger in 1883 was a most severe blow to him. Notable among his other friends was Charles Darwin, who frequently visited him in his office, bringing long lists of memoranda for conference.

Mr. Selater married in 1862 Jane Anne Eliza Hunter Blair, daughter of the late Sir David Hunter Blair, Baronet, of Blairquhan, in Ayrshire. He had six children, of whom four are still living. One of them is particularly well known to us as our present Editor.

Selater received the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Bonn in 1860, and was made a Doctor of Science by the University of Oxford in 1901. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1861, and has twice served on the Council. Besides the Societies already mentioned, he was also a Life-Fellow of the Linnean, Geographical, and Geological Societies, and a Corresponding or Honorary Member of upwards of forty other Scientific bodies at home and abroad.

Subsequently to his resignation of the Secretaryship of the Zoological Society in 1903 (after forty-three years' tenure of that important post), Selater resided entirely at his house at Odiham, in Hampshire, within easy reach of London, and continued to be a constant visitor to the Zoological Society's Library and the great collection of birds at South Kensington. In North Hants he was widely known as an active J.P. and a frequent rider with the Hampshire Hunt, of which he was by far the oldest member.

Selater's death took place, as the result of a carriage accident, on June 27, 1913, at the age of eighty-three years. He leaves a widow, three sons and a daughter.

A. H. EVANS.

THE following appreciations are communicated by John Graham Kerr, F.R.S., Regius Professor of Zoology at the University of Glasgow, and Michael John Nicoll, Assistant-Director of the Giza Zoological Gardens near Cairo, both of whom received much help and encouragement from the subject of our memoir:—

The pre-eminent position occupied by P. L. Selater as an ornithologist, as the founder of the modern science of zoogeography, and as a general zoologist of extraordinarily wide knowledge, has received full recognition, but there is another aspect of his work less generally known but in which he wielded an important influence upon the progress of biology—I refer to the constant help and encouragement which he gave to young workers in zoological science.

Young zoologists—the best of whom are simply carrying on a loved hobby of their boyhood—are, when they embark upon the stream of serious investigation, perhaps more apt than most types of scientific worker to be whirled away on the stream of a particularly intense enthusiasm. They soon find themselves amongst the difficulties of the most difficult of all the sciences, and their initial enthusiasm becomes damped. They are apt, either to give up the science altogether, or to degenerate into mere collectors of “unmitigated fact.” It is during this critical period in his career that the naturalist needs to have by him some strong and kindly friend. Such a friend in need to many a young enthusiast was P. L. Selater.

Personally I owe much, perhaps more than most, to the help and encouragement of a few strong and loyal friends, and pre-eminent among these was Selater: through his influence I was enabled to accompany the Page Expedition of 1889–91 to the Pilcomayo River in Paraguay, and in that unexplored region and amongst its wild Natokoi Indians, to undergo an educative experience of the greatest value to a naturalist. Later on it was mainly on his advice that I found myself at Cambridge and at Christ's, and throughout my career there

I derived inestimable advantage from his always available advice and help.

I know that my experience is not singular: it is merely one relatively unimportant example of a side of Selater's activities which was carried on continuously, unobtrusively, effectively; which attracted no attention, which won no worldly recognition, and which yet constitutes a strong claim to gratitude on the part of Zoological Science to his memory.

J. GRAHAM KERR.

Although he was an old family friend, it was not until 1901 that I had the honour of meeting Mr. Selater. Early in September of that year he, having heard of my wish for a zoological post, wrote and asked me to come to see him at his office in Hanover Square. Thus on the 11th September, 1901, I saw for the first time the kind friend to whom I owe so much.

This meeting was quickly followed by others, for during the next few months I had the privilege of working under him both in the Gardens and in the Library at Hanover Square.

It is and always will be a great satisfaction to me that I have had the honour of serving under, not only one of the greatest of ornithologists, but the most kind and considerate of chiefs.

During the time spent in his service I was able to see and appreciate to the full Mr. Selater's unfailing kindness to those under him. His many acts of kindness will probably never be known except to their recipients; I know that I am but one of many young zoologists who owe more than can ever be expressed to Mr. Selater.

Hardly was my work under him ended when Mr. Selater sent for me to meet the late Earl of Crawford, to whom he had recommended me as Naturalist for the voyages of the 'Valhalla' R.Y.S.

During these voyages Mr. Selater wrote to me frequently; his letters, all of which I have carefully treasured, were full

of ornithological matters as well as advice, and this correspondence he continued, writing always kindly and always helpfully. The last letter was dated 4th May of this year.

On the many occasions when I had the privilege of being his guest at Odiham, ornithological excursions were always arranged for, and my first acquaintance of Great Crested Grebes was made under his guidance.

In the space allowed to me it is impossible to say all that I could wish. Those who have been helped and encouraged as much as I have been by Mr. Selater, and they are many, will know without the telling what a real friend he was; his great store of knowledge was always at the disposal of those who asked for it, and whoever went to him for advice found that it was always freely given and was the best obtainable. It is impossible for me to express how deeply I feel his loss.

MICHAEL J. NICOLL.

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A small pamphlet of 32 pages printed for private distribution in 1876 and entitled "List of the Zoological Works and Memoirs of P. L. Selater, 1850-75," contains the titles of 512 separate works and papers published in various periodicals.

Subsequently, in 1896, there was prepared under the direction of Dr. G. Brown Goode and published as "Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 49," a "Bibliography of the published writings of Philip Lutley Selater, F.R.S., Secretary of the Zoological Society of London."

This last-named work contains a biographical sketch with portrait, list of new families, genera and species described, as well as the bibliography proper in which 1287 titles are enumerated.

The present list of titles is restricted to those dealing with ornithology, and is intended to contain only those papers and separate works of more or less permanent interest. It is based on the two previously mentioned bibliographies and is brought up to date. It contains 582 titles in all, ranging from 1844 to 1913, a period of sixty years.

I. SEPARATE WORKS.

1. *Tanagrarum Catalogus Specificus*. Pp. 1-16. Basingstoke, 1854. 8vo.

2. A Monograph of the Birds forming the Tanagrine Genus *Calliste*; illustrated by coloured plates of all the known species. Pp. xviii+104, pls. i.-xiv. London (Van Voorst), 1857. 8vo.

3. *Zoological Sketches* by Joseph Wolf. Made for the Zoological Society of London, from animals in their vivarium in the Regent's Park. Edited, with notes, by P. L. Sclater. Vol. i. pls. i.-l. (1861); vol. ii. pls. i.-l. (1867), with letterpress to each plate. London (Greaves & Co.). Folio.

4. *Nitzsch's Pterylography*, translated from the German. Edited by P. L. Sclater. Pp. xii+181, pls. i.-x. London (published for the Ray Society), 1867. Folio.

5. *Catalogue of a Collection of American Birds* belonging to P. L. Sclater. Pp. xvi+368, pls. i.-xx. London (Trübner), 1862. 8vo.

6. *Exotic Ornithology*, containing figures and descriptions of new or rare species of American Birds. By P. L. Sclater and O. Salvin. Pp. vi+204, pls. i.-c. London (Quaritch), 1869. [Issued in two sizes, small folio and large folio.]

7. *Nomenclator Avium Neotropicalium, sive Avium quæ in Regione Neotropica hucusque repertæ sunt nomina systematice disposita, adjecta sua cuique speciei patria; accedunt generum et specierum novarum diagnoses*. Auctoribus Philippo Lutley Sclater et Osberto Salvin. Pp. viii+163. Londini (Sumptibus auctorum), 1873. Sm. folio.

8. A Monograph of the Jacamars and Puff-birds, or families *Galbulidæ* and *Bucconidæ*. Pp. liv+171, pls. i.-lv. London (Porter), 1882. 4to.

9. *Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds, in the Collection of the British Museum. Fringilliformes*. Part II., containing the families *Certhidæ*, *Tanagridæ*, and *Icteridæ*. Pp. xvii+431, pls. i.-xviii. London, 1886. 8vo. (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. xi.)

10. *Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds, in the Collection of the British Museum. Oligomyodæ*, or the families *Tyrannidæ*, *Oxyrhamphidæ*, *Pipridæ*, *Cotingidæ*, *Phytotomidæ*, *Philepittidæ*, *Pittidæ*, *Xenicidæ*, and *Eurylemidæ*. Pp. xix+494, pls. i.-xxvi. London, 1888. 8vo. (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. xiv.)

11. *Argentine Ornithology: A descriptive Catalogue of the Birds of the Argentine Republic*. By P. L. Sclater, with notes on their habits by W. H. Hudson. Vol. i. pp. xxiv+208, pls. i.-x. (1888); vol. ii. pp. xv+251, pls. xi.-xx. (1889). London (Porter), 1888-89. 8vo.

12. Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds, in the Collection of the British Museum. *Tracheophonæ*, or the families *Dendrocolaptidæ*, *Formicariidæ*, *Conopophagidæ*, and *Pteroptochidæ*. Pp. xvii + 371, pls. i.-xx. London, 1890. 8vo. (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. xv.)

13. Catalogue of the Picariæ in the Collection of the British Museum. *Scansores* and *Coccyges*, containing the families *Rhamphastidæ*, *Galbulidæ*, and *Bucconidæ*. London, 1891. 8vo. (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., xix. pp. 122-208, pls. vi.-x.)

2. PAPERS IN PERIODICALS.

1844.

14. Note on the Water Rail. *Zoologist*, ii. p. 669.

1845.

15. Arrival of Summer Birds near Odiham in 1845. *Zoologist*, iii. p. 1067.

16. Occurrence of Aquatic Birds near Odiham. *Zoologist*, iii. p. 1077.

1846.

17. Early appearance of the Tufted Duck. *Zoologist*, iv. p. 1214.

18. Occurrence of Sabine's Snipe in Hampshire. *Zoologist*, iv. p. 1300.

1850.

19. Description of an apparently new species of *Calliste*. *Contr. to Ornithology*, 1850, p. 50.

1851.

20. On some new species of *Calliste*. *Contr. to Ornithology*, 1851, pp. 21-25, pl. lxxix.

21. Synopsis of the Tanagerine genus *Calliste*, with descriptions of new species. *Contr. to Ornithology*, 1851, pp. 49-69, pl. lxx.

22. Synopsis of the genus *Euphonia*, with descriptions of new species. *Contr. to Ornithology*, 1851, pp. 81-92, pl. lxxv.

23. Remarks on the Prince of Canino's note "Sur les Tangaras." *Contr. to Ornithology*, 1851, pp. 93-96.

24. On the genus *Tanagraella*, Swainson. *Contr. to Ornithology*, 1851, pp. 97, 98, pl. lxxiv.

25. On the genus *Chlorochrysa*, Bp. *Contr. to Ornithology*, 1851, pp. 99-101, pl. lxxiii.

26. On the genus *Daenis*, Cuvier, with description of a new species. *Contr. to Ornithology*, 1851, pp. 105-110.

27. On a new species of Manakin. Contr. to Ornithology, 1851, p. 143.

28. On two new species of Birds of the genus *Tænioptera*. P. Z. S. 1851, pp. 193-194, pls. xli., xlii.

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29. Synopsis of the genus *Galbula*. Contr. to Ornithology, 1852, pp. 29-33.

30. On a new species of the genus *Nigrita*. Contr. to Ornithology, 1852, p. 34, pl. lxxxiii.

31. On a new species of *Galbula*. Contr. to Ornithology, 1852, p. 61.

32. Further remarks on the Galbulidæ. Contr. to Ornithology, 1852, pp. 93-95, pl. xc.

33. On certain species of *Dacnis*. Contr. to Ornithology, 1852, pp. 101, 102, pl. xciii.

34. List of a collection of Birds made by James Daubeny, Esq., on the Coasts of the Red Sea in 1851. Contr. to Ornithology, 1852, pp. 123-126.

35. Description de six Oiseaux nouveaux appartenant à la collection du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1852, pp. 8-9.

36. Description d'une nouvelle espèce de *Cotinga* provenant de l'expédition de MM. Castelnau et Deville dans l'Amérique du Sud. Par E. Deville et P. L. Selater. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1852, pp. 226-227.

37. Description of some new species of Birds from the Parisian collections. Contr. to Ornithology, 1852, pp. 129-132, pls. xcvi.-c.

38. List of a collection of Birds procured by Mr. C. T. Andersson in the Damara country in South-western Africa, with notes. By H. E. Strickland and P. L. Selater. Contr. to Ornithology, 1852, pp. 141-160.

39. On two new species of South American Birds. P. Z. S. 1852, p. 34, pls. xlvii., xlviii.

1853.

40. On a new species of *Dendrocolaptes*. P. Z. S. 1853, pp. 63-69, pl. lvii.

41. Descriptions of new species of *Bucconidæ*. P. Z. S. 1853, pp. 122-124, pls. l., li.

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47. Description of a new Tanager of the genus *Calliste*. P. Z. S. 1854, p. 248.

48. Description of a second species of the genus *Procnias*. P. Z. S. 1854, p. 249.

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426. Remarks upon the mode of feeding of the young Cormorants by the parent birds in the Society's Gardens. P. Z. S. 1882, pp. 458-459.

427. Note on Rüppell's Parrot. P. Z. S. 1882, pp. 577-578, pl. xlii.

428. On two apparently new species of the genus *Synallaxis*. P. Z. S. 1882, pp. 578-579, pl. xliii.

429. Notes on Birds collected in the Argentine Republic. By E. W. White. With notes by P. L. Slater. P. Z. S. 1882, pp. 591-629.

430. Second note on the species of the Tyrannine genus *Hirundinea*. Ibis, 1882, pp. 162-164.

1883.

431. Supplementary notes on the Birds of the Argentine Republic. By E. W. White. With remarks by P. L. Sclater. P. Z. S. 1883, pp. 37-43, pl. ix.

432. On the Birds collected in the Timor-Laut or Tenimber Group of islands, by Mr. Henry O. Forbes. P. Z. S. 1883, pp. 48-58, 194-200, pls. xi.-xiv, xxvi.-xxviii.

433. Remarks upon a Condor from Peru living in the Society's Gardens. P. Z. S. 1883, p. 349, pl. xxxv.

434. Exhibition on behalf of Dr. G. Bennett, F.Z.S., and remarks upon some skins of a species of *Drepanornis* from southern New Guinea. P. Z. S. 1883, p. 578.

435. Descriptions of five apparently new species of South American Passeres. P. Z. S. 1883, pp. 653-654, pl. lxi.

436. On the genera *Microbates* and *Rhamphocœnus* of the family *Formicariidæ*. Ibis, 1883, pp. 92-96, pl. iii.

437. Review of the species of the family *Icteridæ*. Ibis, 1883, pp. 145-163, 352-374, pls. vi., vii., and xi.; Ibis, 1884, pp. 1-27, 149-167, pls. i., v.

1884.

438. Exhibition of a Night Heron (*Nycticorax griseus*) shot in Plumstead Marshes. P. Z. S. 1884, p. 2.

439. Exhibition of and remarks upon the deciduous knob of the culmen of the beak of the Rough-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus trachyrhynchus*). P. Z. S. 1884, p. 410.

440. Remarks upon a very singular habit of the Greater Vasa Parrot (*Coracopsis vasa*). P. Z. S. 1884, p. 410.

441. Remarks upon the death of a Greater Vasa Parrot (*Coracopsis vasa*) which has passed fifty-four years in the Society's Menagerie. P. Z. S. 1884, p. 562.

442. Remarks on two rare American Oscines. Ibis, 1884, pp. 240-241, pl. vii.

1885.

443. Remarks on the breeding of the Chinese Blue Magpie (*Cyanopollis cyaneus*) in the Society's Gardens in 1884. P. Z. S. 1885, pp. 2-3.

444. Exhibition of and remarks upon a curious Duck shot in Yorkshire. P. Z. S. 1885, p. 246.

445. Exhibition of and remarks upon a pair of Pheasants (*P. principalis*) from northern Afghanistan, belonging to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. P. Z. S. 1885, pp. 322-324, pl. xxii.

446. Description of a new species of *Icterus*. P. Z. S. 1885, p. 671.

447. Characters of an apparently new species of Tanager of the genus *Calliste*. P. Z. S. 1885, pp. 849-850.

448. On the Muscicapine genus *Chasiempis*. Ibis, 1885, pp. 17-19, pl. i.

449. On some little-known species of Tanagers. Ibis, 1885, pp. 271-275, pl. vi.

1886.

450. List of a collection of Birds from the Province of Tarapacá, northern Chili. P. Z. S. 1886, pp. 395-404, pl. xxxvi.

451. On an apparently new Parrot of the genus *Conurus* living in the Society's Gardens. P. Z. S. 1886, pp. 538-539, pl. lvi.

452. On the Claws and Spurs of Birds' Wings. Ibis, 1886, pp. 147-151, 300-301.

453. Description of a new Ground Finch (*Hæmophila pulchra*) from western Peru. Ibis, 1886, pp. 258-259, pl. viii.

1887.

454. Characters of a new species of Birds of the family *Tyrannidæ*. P. Z. S. 1887, pp. 47-50, pl. ix.

455. Extract of a letter from Dr. Burmeister, F.M.Z.S., and remarks on a supposed new Humming Bird (*Chætocercus burmeisteri*). P. Z. S. 1887, pp. 638-639.

456. On *Empidonax brunneus* and its allied species. Ibis, 1887, pp. 64-66.

457. Remarks on the species of the genus *Cyclorhis*. Ibis, 1887, pp. 320-324, pl. x.

1888.

458. Notes on the Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*). Ibis, 1888, pp. 325-334.

1889.

459. On some new species and genera of Birds of the Family *Dendrocolaptidæ*. P. Z. S. 1889, pp. 32-34.

460. List of Birds collected by Mr. Ramage in Dominica, West Indies. P. Z. S. 1889, pp. 326-327, 394-395.

461. Notes on some recently described species of *Dendrocolaptidæ*. Ibis, 1889, pp. 350-354, pl. xi.

1890.

462. Exhibition of and remarks upon a hybrid Duck. P. Z. S. 1890, pp. 1-2, pl. i.

463. On a Guinea Fowl from the Zambesi, allied to *Numida cristata*. P. Z. S. 1890, pp. 86-87, pl. xii.

464. On a new Toucan of the genus *Pteroglossus*. P. Z. S. 1890, p. 403.

465. Remarks on the fifth cubital remex of the wing in the Carinatae. Ibis, 1890, pp. 77-83.

466. On the Range of the Guácharo (*Steatornis caripensis*) in South America. Ibis, 1890, pp. 335-339.

467. On some Birds of the Argentine Republic. By A. H. Holland. With notes by P. L. Selater. Ibis, 1890, pp. 424-428.

1891.

468. On a second collection of Birds from the Province of Tarapacá, northern Chili. P. Z. S. 1891, pp. 131-137, pl. xiii.

469. Remarks on the Sea Eagles, referred to *Haliaeetus pelagicus*, living in the Hamburg Zoological Gardens. P. Z. S. 1891, p. 374.

470. Further notes on the Birds of the Argentine Republic. By A. H. Holland. With remarks by P. L. Selater. Ibis, 1891, pp. 16-20.

471. The Spotted-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus manillensis*). Ibis, 1891, pp. 151-152.

472. Remarks on Macgregor's Paradise Bird (*Cnemophilus macgregori*). Ibis, 1891, pp. 414-415, pl. x.

473. On recent advances in our knowledge of the Geographical Distribution of Birds. Ibis, 1891, pp. 514-557.

1892.

474. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, the Egg and Young of the Partridge Bronze-wing Pigeon (*Coccyphaps scripta*). P. Z. S. 1892, pp. 76-77.

475. On a collection of Birds from the Island of Anguilla, West Indies. P. Z. S. 1892, pp. 498-500.

476. Note on *Calliste margaretha*. Ibis, 1892, p. 351.

477. Remarks on the correct generic name of the Linnet. Ibis, 1892, pp. 555-557.

478. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a specimen of *Paramythia montium*. Bull. B. O. C. i. pp. xvi-xvii.

1893.

479. Remarks on a rare Argentine Bird (*Xenopsaris albinucha*). P. Z. S. 1893, pp. 166-168, pl. vii.

480. Remarks on the protrusion of a fleshy mass from the cloaca occasionally exhibited by the Greater Vasa Parrot. P. Z. S. 1893, p. 435.

481. Notes on *Paramythia montium* and *Amalocichla sclateriana*. Ibis, 1893, pp. 243-246, pl. vii.

482. Note on the proper use of the generic terms *Certhiola* and *Cæreba*. Ibis, 1893, pp. 246-247.

483. Great Bustards in the Zoological Society's Gardens. Ibis, 1893, pp. 476-477.

484. Field Notes on the Birds of Estancia Sta. Elena, Argentine Republic. By A. H. Holland. With remarks by P. L. Selater. Ibis, 1893, pp. 483-488; 1895, pp. 213-217; 1896, pp. 315-318; 1897, pp. 166-169.

485. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a prepared wing and tail of the *Martineta Tinamou*. Bull. B. O. C. i. p. xxiv.

486. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a specimen of *Phalaropus fulicarius* from Chili. Bull. B. O. C. i. p. lv.

487. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a species of *Geophaps plumifera*. Bull. B. O. C. i. pp. lv-lvi.

488. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a variety of *Psittacus erithacus*. Bull. B. O. C. iii. p. vii.

489. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, specimens of the eggs of *Todargus nacunda* and *Hydropsalis furcifer*. Bull. B. O. C. iii. p. vii.

1894.

490. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a stuffed specimen of the White-billed Great Northern Diver (*Colymbus adamsi*) from Norway. P. Z. S. 1894, p. 94.

491. Remarks on the Birds of Antarctica. Ibis, 1894, pp. 494-531.

492. Exhibition of the skin of a Rail (*Amaurolimnas concolor*) from Lima, Peru. Bull. B. O. C. iii. p. xxiii.

493. Remarks on the great inconvenience that would arise if the "*Scomber scomber*" principle was adopted in ornithological nomenclature. Bull. B. O. C. iii. p. xxxiii.

1895.

494. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a skin of a Humming Bird (*Anthocephala berlepschi*) from Colombia. P. Z. S. 1895, p. 521.

495. The Bird Collection of Zurich. Ibis, 1895, pp. 168-169.

496. On the Bower Bird recently described by Mr. C. W. De Vis as *Cnemophilus marie*. Ibis, 1895, pp. 343-344, pl. viii.

497. Extracts of letters received from Mr. Selater on Birds observed up the Nile, and on the mode of carriage of the legs in the Egyptian Kite. Bull. B. O. C. iv. p. xxv.

498. Exhibition of skins of *Falco richardsoni* obtained in Larimer County, Colo. Bull. B. O. C. iv. p. xlii.

499. Exhibition of a Nest and two Eggs of *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* taken from the smaller rock-temple of Abu Simbel, Upper Egypt. Bull. B. O. C. iv. p. xlii.

500. Remarks on a specimen of the Spotted Redshank (*Totanus fuscus*) living in the Zoological Society's Gardens. Bull. B. O. C. v. p. v.

1896.

501. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a pair of *Sitta magna*. Bull. B. O. C. vi. p. ix.

502. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a Chick of the Black-winged Peafowl (*Pavo nigripennis*). Bull. B. O. C. vi. p. xiii.

503. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a Chick of the Crested Screamer (*Chauna cristata*). Bull. B. O. C. vi. p. xxi.

1897.

504. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a collection of Bird-skins formed by Mr. W. A. Churchill at Mozambique. P. Z. S. 1897, p. 188.

505. Remarks on the Glossy Ibises living in the Society's Menagerie. P. Z. S. 1897, p. 811.

506. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, an egg of the Cariama (*Cariama cristata*) laid in the Society's Gardens. P. Z. S. 1897, p. 813.

507. The collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum. Ibis, 1897, pp. 486-487.

508. Exhibition of *Maegregoria pulchra*. Bull. B. O. C. vi. p. xxvi.

509. Exhibition of drawings of *Rupicola crocea* and *Panyptila cayennensis*. Bull. B. O. C. vi. pp. xxvi-xxviii.

510. Remarks on *Genyornis newtoni*. Bull. B. O. C. vi. p. xxxii.

511. On the terms "Topomorph" and "Lipomorph." Bull. B. O. C. vi. pp. xxxiv-xxxv.

512. On the egg of *Hylactes megapodius*. Bull. B. O. C. vii. p. xxiii.

1898.

513. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, two skins of the White-legged Falconet (*Microhierax melanoleucus*). P. Z. S. 1898, p. 128.

514. On the *Psophia obscura* of Natterer and Pelzeln. Ibis, 1898, p. 520, pl. xi.

515. On the Avifauna of Malta. Bull. B. O. C. vii. pp. xlvii-xlviii.

516. Nesting of the Spoonbill in Holland. Bull. B. O. C. viii. pp. x-xi.

517. *Calliste pretiosa* in Argentina. Bull. B. O. C. viii. p. xxiv.

1899.

518. Exhibition of a drawing of the head of the Carunculated Bell-bird (*Chasmorhynchus niveus*). P. Z. S. 1899, pp. 712-713.

519. Bird-notes from the Riviera. Bull. B. O. C. viii. pp. xliii-xliv.

520. On a hybrid Game-bird. Bull. B. O. C. viii. p. li.

521. *Larus atricilla* from Santa Lucia, West Indies. Bull. B. O. C. viii. p. lix.

522. Notes on birds observed in the neighbourhood of Cape Town. Bull. B. O. C. x. pp. xxix-xxxiii.

1900.

523. A list of birds collected at Fort Jameson in Mpeseni's country in Northern Rhodesia determined by Capt. G. E. Shelley. P. Z. S. 1900, pp. 1-3.

524. On the Expedition of Messrs. Goodfellow and Hamilton to Ecuador. Bull. B. O. C. x. pp. lviii-lix.

1901.

525. On two recently discovered additions to the Genus *Calliste*. Ibis, 1901, pp. 595-597, pl. xii.

526. Description of a new species of Wren of the Genus *Thryothorus* (*T. goodfellowi*). Bull. B. O. C. xi. p. 47.

527. On the Irruption of Nutcrackers into Holland and Germany. Bull. B. O. C. xi. p. 48.

528. On the nesting of *Merops ornatus*. Bull. B. O. C. xi. p. 48.

529. Birds observed on a trip to Asia Minor and Turkey. Bull. B. O. C. xii. pp. 18-19.

530. On the supposed occurrence of *Accipiter nisus* in Cape Colony. Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 39.

1902.

531. List of the Parrots represented in the Society's collection in January 1902, with remarks on some of the rarer species. P. Z. S. 1902, vol. i. pp. 166-171, pls. xviii. & xix.

532. Remarks on two lately described Australian birds. Ibis, 1902, pp. 608-610, pls. xiv., xv.

533. On new and rare species of Australian birds. Bull. B. O. C. xii. pp. 50-52.

534. On *Phyllomyias salvadorii* from Tucuman. Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 52.

535. On a living specimen of *Tichodroma muraria*. Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 64.

536. On birds obtained by the exploring ship 'Discovery.' Bull. B. O. C. xii. pp. 64-65.

537. On the occurrence of *Porphyrio poliocephalus* in Hampshire. Bull. B. O. C. xiii. pp. 17-18.

538. On *Sphenura broadbenti*. Bull. B. O. C. xiii. p. 23.

539. On a living specimen of *Paradisea apoda*. Bull. B. O. C. xiii. pp. 23-24.

1903.

540. Note on *Platycercus macgillivrayi*. Bull. B. O. C. xiii. p. 51.

541. Account of a trip to the Mediterranean. Bull. B. O. C. xiii. pp. 65-68.

542. On *Otis barrovii* in the Transvaal. Bull. B. O. C. xiv. pp. 24-25.

543. On the occurrence of *Cyanicterus venustus* in Amazonia. Bull. B. O. C. xiv. p. 31.

544. On the generic name *Ixoreus*. Ibis, 1903, p. 142.

1904.

545. On the birds of the Canaries. Bull. B. O. C. xiv. pp. 81-82.

546. Exhibition of rare species of Australian birds, on behalf of Mr. A. J. North. Bull. B. O. C. xv. pp. 8-10.

547. On Kollibay's Birds of Dalmatia. Bull. B. O. C. xv. p. 13.

548. On the Birds of Sibthorp's "Fauna Græca." Ibis, 1904, pp. 222-228.

549. On a rare Passerine bird from New Guinea. Ibis, 1904, pp. 373-375, pl. ix.

1905.

550. Remarks on Schæffer's Museum Ornithologicum. Ibis, 1905, pp. 85-88.

551. Breeding of *Chauna cristata* in captivity. Ibis, 1905, p. 143.

552. Nesting of *Irrisor viridis*. Bull. B. O. C. xv. p. 40.

553. Dubus's Hawk-Eagle on the Zambesi. Bull. B. O. C. xv. pp. 67-68.

554. On the birds collected by Mr. Lionel E. Taylor in the Transvaal. Bull. B. O. C. xvi. pp. 5-7.

555. On a new species of Bunting from the Syrian Desert. Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 39.

556. On the generic name for the Nightingale. Bull. B. O. C. xvi. pp. 39-41.

1906.

557. On some Birds collected by Mr. Douglas Carruthers in the Syrian Desert. *Ibis*, 1906, pp. 307-317, pl. xv.

558. Note on *Emberiza citriniventris*. *Ibis*, 1906, p. 612.

559. Nesting of *Irrisor viridis* in Natal. *Bull. B. O. C.* xvi. pp. 48, 63.

560. On the capture of fish by tame Cormorants. *Bull. B. O. C.* xvi. pp. 48-49.

561. Occurrence of the Red-breasted Goose in Holland. *Bull. B. O. C.* xix. p. 21.

562. On birds from south-east Rhodesia. *Bull. B. O. C.* xix. pp. 29-31.

563. *Picariæ*, fam. *Coliideæ*, in Wytsman's "Genera Avium," 6th part, pp. 1-6, 1 plate. Brussels, 1906. 4to.

1907.

564. The Ostrich-Farm at Matariéh, Egypt. *Ibis*, 1907, pp. 512-513.

565. On the breeding places of the Spoonbill in Holland. *Bull. B. O. C.* xix. p. 38.

566. On birds observed during his excursion to Egypt. *Bull. B. O. C.* xix. p. 70.

567. On the birds observed at St. Catherine's Lighthouse. *Bull. B. O. C.* xxi. pp. 19-20.

568. Remarks on a supposed new British Tit of the genus *Parus*. *British Birds*, i. pp. 23-24.

1908.

569. Remarks on a collection of Birds from the Sikhim Himalayas. *Ibis*, 1908, pp. 116-117.

570. On the breeding of *Glareola pratincola* in Natal. *Bull. B. O. C.* xxi. p. 48.

571. *Paradisea apoda* in the Zoological Gardens. *Bull. B. O. C.* xxi. p. 49.

572. On the Loche collection of Algerian birds. *Bull. B. O. C.* xxi. p. 85.

573. Notes on *Agapornis lilianæ* and *A. nigrigenys*. *Bull. B. O. C.* xxiii. p. 49.

1909.

574. Increased fertility of the Domestic Fowl. *Ibis*, 1909, pp. 192-193.

575. Remarks on the practice of attaching "Authorities" to the scientific names of animals. *Ibis*, 1909, pp. 347-350.

576. A short history of the British Ornithologists' Union. Ibis, Jubilee Supplement Vol. 1909, pp. 19-64.

577. Note on the Black-faced Love-bird (*Agapornis nigrigenis*). Bull. B. O. C. xxv. p. 11.

578. Picariæ, fam. *Galbulidæ*, in Wytzman's "Genera Avium," 10th part, pp. 1-7, 1 plate. Brussels, 1909. 4to.

1910.

579. Revised list of the Birds of Jamaica in the "Handbook of Jamaica for 1910," pp. 596-619. Kingston, Jamaica, 1910. 8vo.

580. An egg of *Puffinus gravis* from Tristan d'Acunha. Bull. B. O. C. xxvii. p. 22.

1912.

581. The Shoe-bill in the Regent's Park. Ibis, 1912, pp. 686-688, 1 fig.

1913.

582. Commentary on the new "Hand-list of British Birds." Ibis, 1913, pp. 113-127.

THOMAS AYRES.

WE learn with regret from the 'Natal Witness' of August 2, of the death at Potchefstroom in the Transvaal, on July 31 last, of Mr. Thomas Ayres at the advanced age of 85 years.

Mr. Ayres was born in England, but went to Natal with his family when quite young. Developing a taste for natural history, and especially for ornithology, he became known to John Henry Gurney through Dr. Colenso, the Bishop of Natal.

As a result there appeared in the early volumes of the 'Ibis,' from 1859 to 1861, a series of papers written by Mr. Gurney containing excellent and valuable field-notes by Mr. Ayres on the birds of Natal, collected chiefly in the neighbourhood of Pinetown, a few miles out of Durban, where Ayres then lived.

Subsequently, about 1869, he moved into the Transvaal and settled at Potchefstroom, and thence communicated to 'The Ibis,' through Mr. Gurney, another series of papers on the "Birds of the Transvaal Republic," which extended over the years 1869 to 1886.

The collection of birds' skins on which these papers were based were all sent to Mr. Gurney, and they are now divided

between the British and Liverpool Museums, while the Birds of Prey are at the Norwich Museum.

In 1888 he was chosen an Honorary Member of the B. O. U., and about the time of his death he was, with the exception of Prof. Finsch, the oldest on the list.

Though Ayres was not what would be called nowadays a scientific ornithologist, his notes show that he was a keen and excellent observer, and he was certainly a good collector. The papers on the avifauna of Natal and the Transvaal form the basis of our knowledge of the birds of those regions and have been largely drawn upon by all subsequent writers.

JAN WILLEM BOUDEWYN GUNNING.

DR. GUNNING, who had only this year been elected a Member of the Union, died rather suddenly on the 23rd of June last at his residence at Pretoria.

He was born at Hilversum in Holland on the 3rd of September, 1860, and was educated at the Universities of Amsterdam, Leyden, and Jena, taking the degree of M.D. at the last-named. He went to South Africa in 1884 and practised medicine in the Orange Free State until 1892, when he was appointed Director of the newly formed Museum at Pretoria. Here his energy and enthusiasm found full scope, and he not only established and built up the Museum but founded the Zoological Gardens, of which he was also made Director.

Dr. Gunning was one of the most prominent supporters of the South African Ornithologists' Union from its first start. He was a Vice-President and, for the three years previous to his death, the President of that body. His scientific publications include several papers containing descriptions of new South African birds, and, in conjunction with Mr. A. Haagner, he prepared a check-list of the birds of South Africa which was issued in 1910 as a special supplement of the 'Annals of the Transvaal Museum.'

An enthusiastic and untiring worker in the cause of his Museum and Zoological Gardens, Dr. Gunning's premature death is a great loss to zoological science in South Africa.

XXXV.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.**Bryant on the Economic Status of the Meadow-Lark.*

[Investigation of the Economic Status of Non-Game Birds. By H. C. Bryant. Pp. 1-20, figs. 1-8. Sacramento, Cal. (State Printing Office), n. d. 8vo.]

[The economic value of the Western Meadow-Lark in California. By Harold C. Bryant. Bulletin no. 236 of the Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agriculture of the Univ. of California. Pp. 1-16. 1913. 8vo.]

Mr. Bryant has recently taken up the question of the economic importance of various non-game birds in California from the point of the farmer, and while in the first of these pamphlets he gives a general account of his methods of investigation, in the second one he discusses the alleged depredations of that well-known favourite the Western Meadow-Lark (*Sturnella neglecta*). Field investigation has shown that this species on occasion destroys sprouting grain, boring down into the ground beside the young plant and extracting the seed from the ground. This is especially the case with oats, which are grown in large quantities in the great central valley of the State.

On the other hand, Mr. Bryant shows that 60 per cent. of the food of the year consists of animal matter, and that this is almost entirely made up of insects injurious to crops, and that when a balance is struck there remains no doubt that the bird deserves protection for the benefits which it confers on agriculture, while the damage done to the sprouting grain can be largely minimised by planting more deeply and drilling instead of broad-casting the seed-grain.

Bucknill on Cyprus Birds.

[Natural History and Sport in Cyprus. By John A. Bucknill, K.C., M.A., M.B.O.U. Forming Part VII. in the 'Handbook of Cyprus,' 1913.]

Mr. Bucknill has here reprinted his list of the birds of Cyprus, 299 in number, from the articles in 'The Ibis' for 1909-1911. To this he has added an interesting historical account of our knowledge of Cypriote Zoology

from mythical and classical times onward, and lists of the mammals, reptiles, insects, and other groups known to inhabit the island beloved by Aphrodite.

Bureau on the Red-legged Partridge.

[L'Âge des Perdrix. ii.—La Perdrix rouge. Par Dr. Louis Bureau. Pp. 1-143, 54 figs. Nantes (Vié). London (Williams & Norgate). 1913. 8vo.]

Our foreign member, Mr. Louis Bureau, who is the Director of the Natural History Museum at Nantes, has continued his investigation on the moult of the remiges of the Partridges and on the possibility of the exact determination of the age of the young bird by an examination of the condition of the wing. His first contribution, published in 1911, dealt with these conditions in the Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*), the present one with those in the Red-legged (*Caccabis rufa*). His method for the determination of the age of the bird is based on the observed regularity of the moult of the ten wing primaries of the first plumage. This commences in August, at the average age of 29 days, with the moult of the 10th primary; the others in regular order up to the 3rd are successively shed, the average age for the last-named being 105 days, while the first and second (the outermost of the wing) are not moulted until the second autumn (*i. e.* when the bird is about 16 months old).

It is therefore possible to determine the age of the young Red-leg by finding out which feather of the first plumage has been last moulted and measuring the new feather of the second plumage immediately behind it, and comparing this with the "tableau chronométrique" given on p. 74.

The observations on which these conclusions are founded in the case of both species have been continued over twelve to thirteen years, and are all based on wild-killed birds the ages of which have been determined by close observation of the time of hatching. It is found that the moult of the Red-leg takes place more slowly than that of the Grey, and the average age for its completion is 105 as against 86 days.

It is not possible to go more fully here into the observations and into the results contained in this very careful piece of work, which is a grand example of the logical method and clearmindedness of the French intellect, and we can strongly recommend all who are interested in the scientific study of moult, as well as breeders and others who wish to be able to fix the age of game-birds, to read the work in the original French.

Cory on new Neotropical Birds.

[Descriptions of twenty-eight new Species and Subspecies of Neotropical Birds by Charles B. Cory. Publ. Field Museum of Nat. Hist., Ornith. ser. vol. i. 1913, pp. 283-292.]

The greater number of the new forms here described were collected by Mr. N. Dearborn in 1908, and by Mr. W. H. Osgood in 1911, in Venezuela and Colombia. One new species—*Trochroma costariensis*—was obtained in 1910 near Limon in Costa Rica, by H. F. Raven; while in 1912 Mr. Osgood was collecting in Peru, whence came another new species—*Laticauda rubriginosa*—from an altitude of 10,000 feet.

We presume that Mr. Cory will give some further account of these collections at a later date.

Dewar's Sketches of British Birds.

[Wild Birds through the Year. By George A. B. Dewar. Pp. xii+248, 8 photo-plates. London (Herbert Jenkins). 1913. 8vo.]

This is a series of short chatty popular sketches on British Birds, many of them reprinted apparently from daily and weekly journals. Though containing little that is novel they form pleasant reading. The observations seem to have been made chiefly in Hampshire and other southern English counties. The work is illustrated by eight reproductions of photographs by various artists, though some of these do not seem to have any very obvious connection with the text.

Grinnell's List of Californian Birds.

[A Systematic List of the Birds of California by Joseph Grinnell. Cooper Ornithological Club. Pacific Coast Avifauna. Number 8. Pp. 1-23. Hollywood, California, 1912. 8vo.]

This is a formal list of the birds of California, based on the latest information available, but without any further indication as to status or distribution within the State. The only novel feature is in the classification or arrangement which, contrary to the usual methods employed in the United States, is not that of the A. O. U. Check-list, but is "almost identically that based chiefly upon Gadow and presented by Knowlton" in his 'Birds of the World' (New York, Holt, 1909).

Hagen on the Birds of Lübeck.

[Die Vögel des Friestaates und Fürstentums Lübeck, von Werner Hagen. Pp. iv+166. Berlin (Junk). 1913. 8vo.]

This work contains a systematic account of the avifauna of the Free-State of Lübeck and its adjoining Principality, which lie along the coast of the extreme south-west corner of the Baltic. The population is considerable and increasing, and the changes brought about by advancing cultivation, modern methods of forestry, and the spread of towns and suburbs have had the usual result of the gradual extinction of the larger and wilder species. No Wild Goose now breeds within its limits, nor Crane, nor Black Stork, although they all formerly did so. Herr Hagen has therefore thought it well to bring together all the past records and present condition of the avifauna, and here presents it under the auspices of the German Ornithological Society.

The species enumerated number 267, and following this are some appendices devoted to aberrations and monstrosities, to migration and to bird protection in the districts treated of.

Hudson's Adventures among Birds.

[Adventures among Birds. By W. H. Hudson: with a portrait. London (Hutchinson). 1913. 8vo.]

In his new volume Mr. Hudson is chiefly occupied with

his wanderings about England during last year in search of rare songsters. One of his favourite haunts is Wells-next-the-sea on the coast of Norfolk, where there is a combination of sand-hills, pine-wood, green marsh, and saltings, and where the Wild Grey Geese come in in great numbers from the north, finding sanctuary in the wide meadow-lands lying between Wells and Holkham. Here, also, are Hooded Crows, which roost in the pine-woods extending from Wells towards Holkham, and many other interesting birds to be watched. Other chapters deal with the Peak district, with the flat green Somersetshire country near Glastonbury, and with an unnamed Hampshire village, where Mr. Hudson was so fortunate as to discover a number of Dartford Warblers, or, as he terms them, Furze-Fairies, nesting.

There is an elusive charm about all Mr. Hudson's writing, and this volume gives as much pleasure for its literary style as for the observations recounted. His *bête-noir* is the game-keeper and his master the "Millionaire Landed Proprietor" who have between them destroyed so much of the Accipitrine and the larger bird-life of England in their efforts to raise a good head of pheasants and other game. But, on the other hand, it must be remembered that many of our larger birds, such as the Golden Eagle and the Kite, have only been preserved to us by the unremitting care of some our larger land-owners, and that England, at any rate, considering its population and restricted area, shews up very well as compared with continental countries, or even America, as regards the numbers of birds to be seen about the countryside, and this is almost certainly due to the land being held by large land-owners and not by small peasant-proprietors.

Mathews on Australian Birds.

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. iii. pt. 2. Pp. 105-204, pls. 138-150. London (Witherby). 1913. 4to.]

Mr. Mathews must find his task becoming somewhat easier now that he has disposed of the intricate synonymy of the Petrels and earlier groups. Still, as he tells us, the Plover and Snipe families present many difficulties, and in

the Charadriidæ he finds a clear diagnosis of the Ringed Plover group very hard to formulate. Again, while criticizing the attempts of Sharpe and Ridgway to diagnose the family Scolopacidæ, he says that it almost defies definition. Our author, in consequence, takes the view that a multiplicity of genera and subgenera conduces to clearness.

The genus *Ægialitis* of the British Museum Catalogue (for which he substitutes the name *Charadrius*) is much subdivided. *Leucopolius*, of Bonaparte, is accepted as a subgenus for *Æ. marginatus*, *Æ. pallidus*, *Æ. alexandrinus*, *Æ. nivosus*, *Æ. occidentalis*, *Æ. venustus*. *Æ. collaris*, *Æ. ruficapillus*, and *Æ. peroni*; while two new subgenera are proposed, *Pernettyva* for *Æ. falklandicus* and *Helenægialus* for *Æ. sanctæ-helenæ* and *Æ. pecuarius*.

Then *Paroxyechus* is suggested as a new subgenus for *Oxyechus placidus*, *Afroxyechus* as a new genus for the African species *tricoloris*, *bifrontatus* and *forbesi*, and similarly *Elseya* for the Australian *melanops*.

The descriptions of the habits of the various birds are admirable, and Mr. Mathews lays great stress on the study of oology as affording evidence of affinity: he calls special attention to the frequency of erroneous identification of eggs and corrects two cases of it in the British Museum Catalogue.

In concluding the Charadriidæ, he notes that *Æ. hiaticola* was erroneously ascribed by Gould to Australia, that he is satisfied that *Charadrius rubricollis* of Gmelin was described from a specimen of the Red-necked Phalarope, and that he is not satisfied that we know the authentic egg of *Æ. geoffroyi*.

Mr. Mathews sinks his *C. cucullatus torbayi* under *C. e. tregellasi*, his *Elseya melanops marunghi* under *E. m. russata*, and in the following family his *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus rottresti* under the typical *C. leucocephalus*.

In the family Recurvirostridæ, we note that the author replaces *Himantopus* by the older name *Hypsibates*, and gives a new subspecies *H. leucocephalus timorensis* from Timor, while reducing the New Zealand form to another as

H. l. albus. In the Scolopacidæ (where, according to his measurements the female always seems to have the longer bill) he proposes a new genus, *Zarapita*, for *Numenius tenuirostris*, and separates the Whimbrels from the Curlews (as *Phæopus*) on account of their very different relative proportions. So also he makes a new genus *Vetola* for the Bar-tailed Godwits, and here a nice illustration is given of bill and leg for comparison. *Mesoscolopax* is accepted for *Numenius minutus*, and *Iliornis* of Kaup for *Totanus stagnatilis*.

Menegaux on the Ostrich.

[L'élevage de l'Autruche. Récolte et Commerce des Plumes. Par A. Menegaux, Assistant au Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle. Préface de M. Edmond Perrier, Directeur du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle. Pp. 1-156. Paris (Challamel), 1913. 8vo.]

This work forms one of a series of handbooks—bibliothèque d'agriculture coloniale—prepared for the benefit of the French colonists in Algeria, Morocco, and other French possessions.

Although Ostrich-farming has been attempted in many parts of the world—in Algeria, the French Soudan, Madagascar, Arizona, and California—it never seems to have become well established, from a commercial point of view, except in Cape Colony.

It was about the year 1870 that the idea arose among the more enterprising farmers of the eastern portion of Cape Colony of breeding and domesticating these birds on a large scale. So rapidly did the industry spread that whereas in the census of 1865 only 80 tame Ostriches were included, in that of 1875 there were 32,000, while at the present time their numbers have been augmented to upwards of a million birds, yielding annually 711,000 lbs. of feathers, valued at over 2¼ millions pounds sterling.

M. Menegaux's account is largely based on a series of papers by Prof. Duerden, of Grahamstown, published in the 'Agricultural Journal of Cape Colony,' and subsequently in that of the Union of South Africa during the years

1907-1912. Prof. Duerden has carried out a number of breeding and other experiments, with a view to improving the quality and quantity of feathers produced, with most happy results, and M. Menegaux here presents this for the benefit of French colonial farmers.

Miller on the Kingfishers.

[A Revision of the Classification of the Kingfishers. By W. de W. Miller. Bull. Amer. Museum Nat. Hist. New York, xxxi. 1912, pp. 289-311, pls. xxv., xxvi.]

In this carefully reasoned paper, Miller proposes to revise the classification of the Kingfishers. Sharpe in his "Monograph of the Kingfishers," published in 1871, recognised two subfamilies only:—

- Alcedininae, including *Rhamphaleyon* (*Pelargopsis*),
Ceryle, *Alcedo*, *Corythornis*, and *Alcyone*.
- Daceloninae, containing all the other genera.

Sharpe's division was based to a great extent on the habits of the bird, the first-named subfamily being largely piscivorous, the second bush-loving and feeding on insects and reptiles.

Miller proposes to recognise three subfamilies:—

- Cerylinae with *Ceryle*.
- Alcedininae with *Alcedo*, *Corythornis*, *Alcyone*, *Ceyx*,
Ceycopsis, *Ispadina*, and *Myioceyx*.
- Daceloninae with *Rhamphalcyon* (*Pelargopsis*), *Halcyon*,
Dacelo, and the other Australian Bush-Kingfishers.

The Cerylinae are characterised by a narrow crest, a moderately long tail, an interrupted dorsal tract, a bare end to the tibia and a long second toe, while the plumage contains no blue and the sexes are alike above, but always different below. This subfamily is found in both hemispheres, but does not extend to the Indo-Malayan or Australian regions.

The Alcedininae have a flat crest, a very short tail, a continuous dorsal tract, the end of the tibia slightly feathered, and a very short, vestigial or absent second toe, the plumage

always has blue in it, and the sexes are almost always alike. They are confined to the eastern hemisphere, only one genus being restricted to the Australian region.

The Daceloninæ have a flat wide crest, a moderate or rather long tail, an interrupted dorsal tract, the end of the tibia feathered, and a moderately long second toe. The plumage contains blue and the sexes are usually different above, rarely so below. This subfamily is practically restricted to the Australian subregion.

Mr. Miller appears to be rather doubtful about the position of the genus *Ramphalecyon* (formerly known as *Pelargopsis*): he considers that it may be more consistent to make a fourth subfamily for its reception. He also points out that the current generic names *Sauromarptis* and *Carcinentis* are antedated by *Choualecyon* Lesson, 1831, and *Lacedo* Reichenb. 1851.

The second portion of the paper deals more fully with the differential characters of the genera and species of the Cerylinæ. Three genera are recognised—*Ceryle* for *C. rudis* alone, *Chloroceryle* Kaup for *C. amazona* and three other closely allied species confined to the Neotropical region, and *Megaceryle* Kaup, with five species allied to *C. maxima*, found in both hemispheres.

North on the Australian Cassowary.

[On the Early History of the Australian Cassowary (*Casuarius australis* Wall). By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S., C.M.B.O.U., Ornithologist. Records Australian Mus. x. 1913, pp. 39-48, pls. viii.-ix.]

The Cassowary of the Australian mainland was first met with by the Kennedy expedition which was sent to explore the country between Rockingham Bay and Cape York in northern Queensland in 1848. Out of eleven persons who composed the expedition only two survived. One of these, Wm. Barron the botanist, described in his narrative the capture of a Cassowary which was shot by an aboriginal—Jackey. This specimen was eaten by the members of the expedition and the skin, which was preserved by Thomas

Wall, the naturalist of the expedition, was afterwards lost. A description of the bird under the name of *Cusuarinus australis* was published by William S. Wall, the Curator of the Australian Museum, who was the brother of Thomas Wall, based on rough notes and sketches made by the latter, on p. 88 of "The Illustrated Sydney News" of June 3rd, 1851. This account forms the basis of Gould's description (Handbook Bds. Austr. 1865, ii. p. 206).

The photograph which accompanies the present article, though stated to be that of the type, is apparently that of the second example obtained by Mr. G. Randall Johnson near Rockingham Bay in about 1866. This specimen was described by Mr. Krefft, the third curator of the Australian Museum, in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1867, under the name *C. johnstoni*, and is now in the Australian Museum.

Robinson on Malayan Birds.

[Notes on Birds new to, or rare in, the Malay Peninsula (Third series). By H. C. Robinson, C.M.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Journ. Fed. Malay States Museum, v. 1913, pp. 15-22.]

Mr. Robinson continues his investigations into the avifauna of the Malay Peninsula and in this short paper comments on several rare species he has recently secured. *Dromas ardeola*, the Crab Plover, has its range extended from the Andamans to Selangor, but no new species are described.

Todd on the Ground-Doves.

[A Revision of the Genus *Chamepelea*. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Annals Carnegie Museum, viii. 1913, pp. 507-603.]

Mr. Clyde Todd submits the Ground-Doves of the genus *Chamepelea* to a thorough and exhaustive revision based on the examination of no less than 1920 specimens loaned from the leading Museums and private collections of the United States. He recognises five species, one of which, *C. passerina*, is further separated into sixteen subspecies,

and two others have each one subspecies, making 22 in all. Four of these are here discriminated for the first time.

For the species usually known as *Chamepelia cruziana* Prév. & Knip, a new genus *Eupelia* is provided. As regards *C. passerina*, a Linnean species and the type of the genus, a further change is proposed, and it is worth while perhaps to follow the details of this in order to show the difficulties of the modern taxonomist.

Linnæus in describing his *Columba passerina* in 1758 gives a diagnosis which will suit the Ground-Dove of the southern United States equally well with that of Jamaica and Barbados, all three of which are now regarded as distinct subspecies. Linnæus based his diagnosis on Sloane, Catesby, and Willughby's accounts, whose respective localities were Jamaica, S. Carolina, and Barbados.

Mr. F. M. Chapman in 1892 discussed this matter and came to the conclusion that Jamaica should be accepted as the type locality of Linnæus' species as Sloane's reference was the first, and proposed the name "*terrestris*" for the continental form. Mr. Todd has now discovered that Bonaparte, in a review of the genus published in 1855, distinctly restricted the application of the name "*passerina*" to the continental form figured by Catesby, and claims that this form should be known as *C. passerina passerina* and not *C. passerina terrestris* as proposed by Chapman, while for the Jamaican and Barbadian subspecies the names *C. passerina jamaicensis* (Maynard) and *C. passerina antillarum* Lowe must be substituted.

The ultimate decision of this question must rest we presume with the "checklist" committee of the A.O.U. or with the nomenclature committee of the International Zoological Congress. So far as we are aware, there is no definite rule laid down in the code dealing with a case of this sort. It seems, however, a safer method to follow Chapman's method, as this leads more surely to a final decision, rather than Mr. Todd's, whose conclusions may be presently upset by the discovery of a reviser previous to Bonaparte.

Zitkov on Birds from the Yamal Peninsula.

[B. M. Zitkov. Les oiseaux de la presque île de Yamal. Avec Pl. xi. et 9 fig. dans le texte. Annuaire des Musée Zool. de l'Académie Imp. des Sciences de St. Pétersbourg, xvii. 1912, pp. 311-369. Russian.]

We can do little more than draw the attention of any of our readers who understand Russian to this memoir, which deals with the birds of the Yamal or Yalmal Peninsula, a desolate region extending northwards into the Arctic seas at the north-west corner of Siberia near the mouth of the Obi River. Only eight passerine birds are mentioned, but this is compensated for by the number of swimming and diving birds. No new species or subspecies are described, and the article is accompanied by some photographs of nests and eggs.

A new Check-list of Australian Birds.

[Official Check-list of the Birds of Australia. By Check-list Committee, Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union. Adopted at Launceston, 19th November, 1912, with Report. Pp. 1-116. Melbourne (Walker, May & Co.), 1913. 8vo. Also as Supplement to 'The Emu,' vol. xii. Jan. 1913.]

The appearance of the long-expected 'Official Check-list of the Birds of Australia' must be an important event in the history of the ornithology of that country, more especially as it is the result of ten years' labour on the part of the Committee appointed by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

It is therefore disappointing, in view of the progress of ornithological science and research, to find that the Committee should have considered it a reasonable proposition to discard the labours of recent workers and endeavour to propose a "new nomenclature," based upon that utilised in part by John Gould from 1837-1865. The preface drawn up by the Committee to explain their action is most unconvincing, and many statements made are hardly accurate. As a nomenclature to be employed by a conservative body of local workers it might be recommended, but no further usage is possible.

It is somewhat astonishing to realise that *each* member of the Committee had written lengthy papers and books based upon the nomenclature utilised in the 'Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum,' yet collectively the Committee has approved of the rejection *in toto* of the advances made by the authors of these volumes upon Gould's work. Though steadfastly maintaining that no disturbing innovations should be permissible, the Committee have produced quite a novel list of names, resurrecting many Gouldian names which have been consistently in disuse for the last thirty to forty years.

It is impossible to recommend the list to the use of present-day workers, as no synonymy is given, and names are apparently used for species with which they have been shown to have no connection. Subspecies are rarely included as such, but in most cases the List shows that the Committee do not understand the term "subspecies" as it is now commonly interpreted. Trinomials are not utilised, as it was concluded their use would "endanger its (*i. e.* ornithological study) existence in Australia." After many years' delay the leading Ornithologists of Britain have now concluded that it is impossible to withstand the progress of the trinomial method of naming birds, and the List now being prepared by the Select Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union will include subspecies named trinomially. It will thus be seen that Australians will now stand alone in rejecting trinomialism, but as Mathews, in his current work on the 'Birds of Australia,' makes full use of this system, the younger progressive element in Australian ornithology will no doubt refer to his work for a better understanding of their birds in connection with those of other countries. A few points illustrative of the preceding criticism may be appended. The Committee report that they dealt with the validity of species and they state: "During the evenings of the winter months they did so"; in the present state of ornithological science it is impossible to determine the validity of subspecies in winter evenings, so that it is easily understood why such were not

recognised: the difficulty is to understand how some of the "subspecies" admitted were separated under such circumstances.

The Committee further state "the specific . . . names of John Gould have been in current use for sixty years," and they include as such *Strepera anaphonensis* Temminck, which was rejected in the 'Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum' in 1877 and is now first utilised in scientific work since that date, in the present List.

It is well known to ornithologists that Gould's names have been continually under revision since 1865, the first and commonly accepted taking place in 1877, only twelve years after Gould's book was published, when Ramsay put forward his first list; this was followed by his Tabular List in 1888. Subsequent revisers have been Hall, one of the present Committee, who in 1899 based his list upon the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum'; this nomenclature was also accepted by Campbell (another of the present Committee) in his monumental 'Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds,' whilst North in his similarly named work has also based his names upon that series of Monographs.

The Committee have not rejected preoccupied names, neither have they accepted legitimate corrections save in an erratic indeterminable manner. A good instance is the retention of *Malurus longicaudus* Gould for the Tasmanian Blue Wren Warbler, and *Malurus cyaneus* Ellis for the Mainland Blue Wren Warbler. It is well known and indisputable that Ellis named a bird from Adventure Bay, Tasmania, which is undoubtedly the same as the one which Gould named *Malurus longicaudus*; moreover, this name is preoccupied by Temminck. These points have been undisputed since 1873, when Pelzeln first pointed them out.

In conclusion, it can only be reiterated that the Official Check-list can be regarded merely as an expression of the conservative views of the older school of Australian ornithologists, and not as a useful index to the state of ornithological science in Australia.

A new Dutch Ornithological Club.

[Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen. Jaarbericht, No. 2. Pp. 1-132. Deventer (Kluwer), 1912. 8vo.]

Every year the clubs and societies exclusively devoted to the study of ornithology increase in number, and we now have to announce the formation of a new one in Holland whose second 'Yearbook' we have lately received. The president and moving spirit appears to be Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg, who contributes an article on the rarer birds which have come to his notice in Holland between May 1911 and April 1912. Mr. P. H. Hens, the Secretary of the Club, writes on the birds of the neighbourhood of Roermond, and Mr. C. Eykman on those of the south-western part of Utrecht province, while from outside Holland Mr. W. C. van Heurn contributes some notes on his ornithological experiences in Surinam and Baron Snouckaert on a collection of birds from Palestine.

The Emu.

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularize the study and protection of native birds. Vol. xii. July 1912 to April 1913.]

The last volume of the 'Emu' fully sustains the reputation of the past and contains a number of papers dealing with every aspect of Australian ornithology. Capt. S. A. White gives an account in four articles of his ornithological collecting trips recently undertaken in various districts of South Australia. The results of these have been presented to Mr. Mathews to assist him in the completion of his work on the 'Birds of Australia.' So far the districts visited by Capt. and Mrs. White have been the Eyre Peninsula, Port Augusta, the Mallee of the lower Murray, Lakes Albert and Alexandrine, up the mouth of the Murray, Cape Jervis and Kangaroo Island. Other articles containing interesting field-notes are by Mr. F. E. Wilson on the birds and eggs of the Mallee country in the north-west of Victoria, by Mr. S. W. Jackson, who travelled to a spot on the Moonie river on the New South Wales-Queensland border in search of the nests and eggs of the Spotted Bower-bird (*Chlamydodera*

maculata). This article, which is illustrated by a number of beautiful photographs of the haunts, the playgrounds or bowers, and of the nests, eggs and young of the Bower-bird, is of special interest, and from it can be obtained a very complete account of the habits of these interesting birds. Mr. G. F. Hill sends some notes on the birds met with on a journey from Oodnacatta in South Australia northwards through the heart of the continent to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

New species of Australian birds are described as follows :—*Ptilinopus hyacinthinus minor*, p. 19, Herberton ranges, Queensland; *Ptilotis carpentariensis* p. 19, Burketown, Queensland; *Ptilotis subchrysoptera* p. 19, Cooktown, Queensland, all by Mr. A. J. Campbell; *Falco melanotus*, *Megalurus flindersi*, and *Sericornis flindersi*, pp. 164 and 165, described by Messrs. White and Mellor, from Flinders Island in Bass Straits. The last two of these are described as “subsp. nov.,” but no indication is given of the species of which they are considered to be the sub-species and the descriptions are not comparative; no type is named, nor is the number of specimens obtained or compared given. Such slipshod methods as these are bringing systematic ornithology into great disrepute and we must protest against them. Mr. Dodd of Nelson in northern Queensland, describes *Cacomantis lineatus* (p. 165) from a single female, Mr. Mellor *Amyntornis merrotsyi* (p. 166) from near Lake Torrens in Central Australia, and Mr. Milligan *Acanthiza pygmaea* (p. 167) from the Mallee district of Victoria. Finally Messrs. Campbell and Kershaw describe *Amyntornis rufa* (p. 274), from Northern Territory.

Other articles of special interest are on the breeding-habits of *Gygis candida* in the Kermedec group, by R. S. Bell, on the internal parasites of Australian birds, by T. H. Johnston, and on the osteology of *Cereopsis novae-hollandiae*, by Dr. Shufeldt of Washington, U.S.A.

A supplementary number of the present volume contains a new official check-list of Australian birds, in regard to which a notice will be found on p. 699.

Journal of the Ornithological Society of Kief.

[Travaux de la Société ornithologique de Kief du nom de K. Th. Kessler, sous la rédaction du président de la Société, V.-M. Artobolevski. Vol. i. Livrais. i. pp. 1-320. Kief, 1913.]

This makes another addition to the rapidly increasing number of Ornithological periodicals. It is published at Kief in south-west Russia and is in the Russian tongue, though the title-page and table of contents are also in French and there is a short summary of two out of the three articles in the same language.

M. E. Charlemagne describes a new subspecies of Oyster-Catcher, *Hematopus ostralegus borysthenicus*, from the valley of the Dnieper, differing from the typical form in its greater size and longer beak and tarsus. In a second paper he writes on the irruption of the Siberian Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorhynchus*) in European Russia during the autumn of 1911. The greater part of the number, however, is occupied in a systematic account of the Avifauna of Colchis and Adzaria, or Abkhasia as it is spelt in English maps, a province lying on the southern slopes of the Caucasus and between those mountains and the Black Sea.

Other Ornithological Publications received.

- DABBENE, R., et LILLO, M. Description de deux nouvelles espèces d'Oiseaux de la Rép. Argentine. (Annales Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Buenos Aires, Tom. xxiv., 1913.)
- GYLDENSTOLPE, N. Birds collected by the Swedish Zool. Exped. to Siam, 1911-1912. (K. Svenska Vet. Handl. Bd. 50, No. 8. Upsala, 1913.)
- HEATHERLEY, F. The Peregrine Falcon at the Eyrrie. ('Country Life' Library, 1913.)
- LAURIE, D. F. Official Report of Egg-laying Competitions, 1912-13. (S. Aust. Dept. Agric., Adelaide, 1913.)
- MATHEWS, G. M. The Birds of Australia. (Vol. iii. pt. 3, 1913.)
- NORTH, A. J. Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania. (Vol. iv. pt. 2. Sydney, 1913.)
- Annuaire du Musée Zoologique de Imp. Acad. Sciences St. Pétersbourg. (Vol. xvii. Nos. 3 & 4, 1913.)

- The Auk. (Vol. xxx. No. 3, 1913.)
 The Austral Avian Record. (Vol. ii. No. 1. 1913.)
 Avicultural Magazine. (3rd Series, Vol. iv. Nos. 9-12, 1913.)
 Bird Notes. (New Series, Vol. iv. Nos. 7-9, 1913.)
 British Birds. (Vol. vii. Nos. 2-4, 1913.)
 The Condor. (Vol. xv. Nos. 3, 4, 1913.)
 The Emu. (Vol. xiii. pt. 1, 1913.)
 Field Museum of Nat. Hist. Ann. Report of the Director for the Year
 1912. (Chicago, 1913.)
 Irish Naturalist. (xxii. Nos. 7-9, 1913.)
 Journ. f. Orn. (Vol. 61, Heft 3 & Sonderheft 1, 1913.)
 Journal of the S. African Ornithologists' Union. (Vol. ix. No. 1,
 1913.)
 Orn. Jahrbuch. (Vol. xxiv. Heft 3, 4, 1913.)
 The Scottish Naturalist. (Nos. 19-21, 1913.)
 Victoria, R. Zool. & Acclim. Soc. 49th Annual Report (1912).
 (Melbourne, 1913.)
 Zoologischer Anzeiger. (Bd. xlii. Nos. 5-10, 1913.)
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XXXVI.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

We have received the following letters addressed "to the Editor":—

SIR,—Last year, when working out a collection of birds from Yunnan, I made a very careful examination of all the specimens of the various forms of *Prinia inornata* Sykes, contained in the Tring and British Museums. In reviewing the different forms of this species in the 'Novitates Zoologicae,' vol. xix. p. 299 I drew attention to the fact that the bird inhabiting Yunnan and Upper Burma as well as that found in Formosa diverged somewhat from the typical *Prinia inornata extensicauda* Swinhoe, from Amoy, but as many of the older specimens lacked precise data, I refrained from describing them. Since then Major H. H. Harington, with additional material of his own, has named both birds (Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxxi. p. 111), calling the former *P. i. burmanica* and the latter *P. i. formosa*. It seems to me that in only referring to the colours of their plumage he has missed their most striking characteristics, namely, the difference in the size of their bills.